



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

NEWS RELEASE

September 17, 2003

MEDIA CONTACT: (860) 566-3180

John G. Rowland
Governor

Maj. Gen. William A. Cugno
The Adjutant General

State Emergency Management Officials Continuing to Monitor Hurricane Isabel

(HARTFORD, CT) –The State of Connecticut Office of Emergency Management is continuing to monitor the progress of Hurricane Isabel. Hurricane Isabel has been downgraded to a Category 2 hurricane but may strengthen over the Gulf Stream. There has been no change in the track of the storm and weather officials say it should reach landfall between Cape Fear and Cape Hatteras, North Carolina, tomorrow afternoon. At this time, Hurricane Isabel is **not** forecast to make landfall in the Connecticut area but emergency officials are continuing to monitor the storm and will provide up to date information in the event any protective actions are required.

For Thursday, Connecticut and Long Island may experience sustained winds of 20-30 mph with gusts up to 40 mph. A wind advisory may be issued later Thursday into Friday. Rain heavy at times will spread across the Northeast Thursday evening and continue through Friday dropping 1 to 3 inches of rain, higher amounts in isolated areas are possible. Rain may cause minor flooding of small streams and rivers. Connecticut's large rivers are low and the ground is not saturated so we will be able to absorb this level of rainfall without flooding along major rivers. High winds on the open seas are currently causing waves 12 to 16 feet off shore south of Long Island. A storm surge of 1 to 3 feet is expected in Long Island Sound but we are experiencing an astronomical low tide and this should not cause significant coastal flooding.

Individuals are encouraged to listen to the radio and television for up to date weather information. Even though CT should not experience the worse effects from Hurricane Isabel, individuals are still recommended to consider the following preparation and safety measures:

- Stock your home with 3-7 days of food (canned goods, dry foods), water, and supplies.
- Fuel and service family vehicles.
- Inspect and secure mobile home tie downs.
- Have extra cash and credit cards on hand. Keep all important papers together where they can be quickly found if you have to leave in a hurry.
- If advised, prepare to cover all windows with shutters or other shielding materials.
- Extra supplies of and prescription medications

Have ready an emergency kit that includes:

- Flashlights, portable battery-operated radio, extra batteries.
- First aid kit and manual, include essential medicines.
- Non-electric can opener.

In the event individuals are ever advised to evacuate, families should have an evacuation plan. People should know where they will go and if directed to evacuate, do so. Individuals should also not forget to make arrangements for pets. Before an emergency occurs individuals with pets should consider what they would do with their pets if they are told to evacuate.

Remember to use caution when driving in any storm. Stay away from flooded roads and downed power lines.